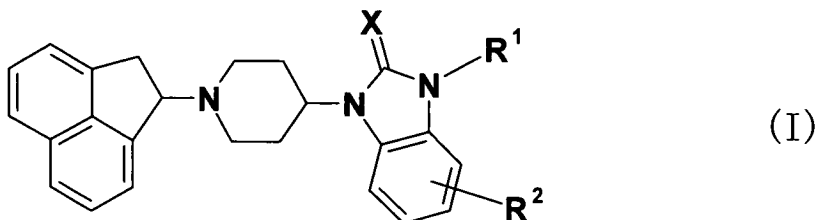


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the formula (I)



wherein

R¹ is

- (1) hydrogen,
- (2) lower alkyl,
- (3) lower alkenyl,
- (4) -C(O)-lower alkyl,
- (5) -C(O)O-lower alkyl,
- (6) -C(O)-phenyl (the phenyl group may be substituted with lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy, phenoxy or benzyloxy),
- (7) lower alkyl-carboxyl,
- (8) lower alkyl-C(O)-phenyl (the phenyl group may be substituted with lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy, phenoxy or benzyloxy),
- (9) lower alkyl-C(O)O-lower alkyl,
- (10) lower alkenyl-C(O)O-lower alkyl,
- (11) lower alkyl-O-lower alkyl,
- (12) lower alkyl-C(O)NR³R⁴,
- (13) -S(O)₂-lower alkyl,
- (14) -S(O)₂-phenyl (the phenyl group may be substituted with lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy, phenoxy or benzyloxy),
- (15) lower alkyl-S-lower alkyl,
- (16) lower alkyl-S(O)-lower alkyl,
- (17) lower alkyl-S(O)₂-lower alkyl,

(18) lower alkyl-S(O)₂NR³R⁴,

(19) phenyl (the phenyl group may be substituted with lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy, phenoxy or benzyloxy), or

(20) benzyl (the phenyl group may be substituted with lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy, phenoxy or benzyloxy),

R² is hydrogen, lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy, phenoxy, benzyloxy, trifluoromethyl, nitro, amino or cyano,

R³ and R⁴

may be the same or different, and each is hydrogen, lower alkyl or lower alkenyl, or R³ and R⁴ may bind with an adjacent nitrogen atom to form a saturated nitrogen-containing hetero ring (the hetero ring may be substituted with lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy, phenoxy or benzyloxy), and

X is O or S[[.)],

a racemic mixture thereof, an enantiomer corresponding thereto, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. (Original) The compound of claim 10, wherein R² is hydrogen, and X is O.

12. (Original) The compound of claim 10, wherein R¹ is -C(O)-lower alkyl, lower alkyl-C(O)NR³R⁴ (either R³ or R⁴ is hydrogen) or lower alkyl-C(O)NR³R⁴ wherein R³ and R⁴ bind with an adjacent nitrogen atom to form a saturated nitrogen-containing hetero ring (the hetero ring may be substituted with lower alkyl, halogen, lower alkoxy, phenoxy or benzyloxy).

13. (Original) The compound of claim 10, which is selected from

(RS)-1-[1-(acenaphthen-1-yl)piperidin-4-yl]-1,3-dihydro-2H-benzoimidazol-2-one,

(R)-1-[1-(acenaphthen-1-yl)piperidin-4-yl]-1,3-dihydro-2H-benzoimidazol-2-one,

(S)-1-[1-(acenaphthen-1-yl)piperidin-4-yl]-1,3-dihydro-2H-benzoimidazol-2-one,

(R)-3-acetyl-1-[1-(acenaphthen-1-yl)piperidin-4-yl]-1,3-dihydro-2H-benzoimidazol-2-one,

(R)-2-{3-[1-(acenaphthen-1-yl)piperidin-4-yl]-2,3-dihydro-2-oxo-benzoimidazol-1-yl}-N-methylacetamide, and

(R)-1-[1-(acenaphthen-1-yl)piperidin-4-yl]-3-(2-oxo-2-piperazin-1-ylethyl)-1,3-dihydro-2H-

benzoimidazol-2-one.

Claims 14-20 (Cancelled)

21. (New) A method of preventing and/or treating a sleep disorder, comprising administering an effective amount of the compound of claim 10 to a patient.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the sleep disorder is a circadian rhythm sleep disorder.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the circadian rhythm sleep disorder is jet-lag syndrome.

24. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the circadian rhythm sleep disorder is shift-work sleep disorder.

25. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the circadian rhythm sleep disorder is a delayed sleep phase syndrome.

26. (New) The method of claim 21, used for preventing and/or treating symptoms involved in a geriatric circadian rhythm sleep disorder.

27. (New) The method of claim 21, used for bright light therapy.